

Hanan said the foresters were hopeful that the caterpillar-moth outbreak, now in its third year, would not reappear next spring because "they consider it strictly cyclical like the 17-year locusts." But if their evaluations next winter indicate another outbreak next spring they might recommend aerial spraying with B-T which is harmful only to the caterpillars. He said aerial spraying might cost as much as \$18,000 and that public hearings would be held to "get the feeling of the people about what they want."

Jim Smith, a state pest control forester, was asked if the white marked tussock moth is considered as serious a threat as the gypsy moth which has defoliated millions of acres of trees along the Atlantic coast to the north of here.

"We do not consider them to be so because the white marked tussock moth is native to this country while the gypsy moths are imported"--and hence have no natural enemies over here, Smith replied.

- - - - - oOo - - - - -

At its June meeting, the PKS Board of Commissioners completed action on the 1984-85 town budget and adopted a fence ordinance that prohibits any fence "which could cause harm to anyone." Taking heed of objections raised at a May 25 public hearing, the new ordinance would allow electric fences approved by Underwriters Laboratory. Electric fences could not be over two feet high and would be used solely for protecting gardens.

BOARD APPROVES

NEW FENCE RULES

In response to questions raised by Commissioner Jack Thompson, Commissioner Fred Libby said UL approved electric fences would not harm animals or human beings but would keep them away. Building Inspector Bill Ballantine pointed out that such fences are not charged constantly but carry pulses of low-voltage electricity that zaps intruders without harming them.

The fence ordinance, which applies only to residential areas, would prohibit fences with barbs or spikes or similar protrusions, and says fences cannot be over five feet high and must be readily visible. It would also prohibit erection of chain link or wire fences around front yards and would require the more unfinished side of a fence to be turned toward the property owner who erected it.

During discussion of the budget, Town Attorney Ken Kirkman noted that the Whaler Inn, which is being converted to time-sharing condominiums has been placed in receivership. He said its debts were so extensive he doubted the town would be able to collect its 1984 taxes on the property. Town Clerk Corinne Geer said the 1983 taxes had been paid.

The 1984-85 budget calls for spending \$498,167 during the fiscal year beginning July 1, and is predicated on a 19-cent tax rate -- same as this year -- on a \$121 million tax valuation. The budget for this year is \$428,000 on a \$106 million valuation.

The budget will provide a pay raise of 5 percent for all the town's employees. It also includes funds for hiring an additional policeman, \$9,500 for replacing a police car and \$50,000 to purchase an additional fire truck, an attack or mini pumper for which bids will be opened in July. The budget calls for the promotion of Brenda Cox to tax collector.

Public Works Commissioner Ken Hanan told the board that Waste Industries, which collects garbage for the town, is complaining that many residents are putting out brush for it to pick up without tying it in bundles, not over four feet long. Mayor Haller said he had noted large quantities of grass clippings in the canal, presumably thrown in by residents in violation of a town ordinance. Hanan said efforts were being made to track down the culprits.

- - - - - oOo - - - - -

